



Seventh & James Baptist Church
May 14, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
The Sixth Sunday of Easter

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“This Joyful Eastertide”

(VREUCHTEN)
John Ferguson

Welcome and Call to Worship

Erin Conaway

One: Beloved child of God, you are welcome here....

Many: We give thanks to God for bringing us into this moment of worship.

One: For no matter who you are or where you've been, you matter to God and to us.

Many: Our hearts rejoice and give thanks for all those who have come before us and made a place for us to worship, pray, sing, wonder, doubt, believe, and just be.

One: May the love of God through Christ our Lord convince you of your worth and invitation into this body of believers as we worship together in thanksgiving and hope.

Choral Summons

“God of Creation”

Timothy R. McKinney

God of eternity, hope of the hopeless, Lamb of salvation, who died in our place;
Risen, you call us to life without end, if we shall accept your ineffable grace.

Processional Hymn, No. 198

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

(Choristers Hymn-of-the-Month for March)

Responsive Reading of Psalm 66:8-20

Sharon Rollins

One: Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.

Many: For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.

One: You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;

Many: you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

One: I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will pay you my vows,

Many: those that my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

One: I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings, with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams; I will make an offering of bulls and goats.

Many: Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will tell what he has done for me.

One: I cried aloud to him, and he was extolled with my tongue.

Many: If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

One: But truly God has listened; he has given heed to the words of my prayer.

All: Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sharon Rollins

Reading from the Acts

Acts 17:22-31

Suzanne Alcorn

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

Lloyd Alcorn

Hymn, No. 469

“Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands”

Gospel Reading

John 14:15-21

Matt Rosencrans

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God’s People

Matt Rosencrans

Offertory

“God’s Love Medley”

arr. by Eka Gilroy Kharis

Carolien Tantra, *piano*

*(Eka is an alumnus of Southeast Asia Bible Seminary, Indonesia,
and a former student of Carolien.)*

Offering plates are available at the doors of the sanctuary as you leave worship.

Doxology

(sung to LASST UNS ERFREUEN, tune of "All Creature of Our God and King," No. 307)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Children's Sermon

Leslie Rosencrans

*All children are invited to come forward for the Children's Sermon.
Preschoolers [ages 4-kindergarten] may then go to Extended Session.*

Confession

Scott Turner

One: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you...

Many: In thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

One: We have not loved you with our whole heart;

Many: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

One: We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

Many: For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

One: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

All: Strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

— *The Book of Common Prayer*

Anthem

"Thou Art the Christ"

Mark Hayes, music
Deborah Harris, lyrics

To whom shall we go when our hearts are gripped with fear?
Who will give us courage to go on?
To whom shall we go when our eyes are filled with tears?

Who can heal our hurts; who can make us strong?
To whom shall we go for pardon of our sins?
Who shall be found worthy to atone?

Thou art the Christ who set the captives free.
Thou art the Christ who made the blind to see.
Oh, Thou hast the words of eternal life.
Thou art the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Thou art the Christ.

To whom shall we go with our questions and our doubts?
Who has grace to help our unbelief?
To whom shall we go with our deep unspoken dreams?
Who can hear our hearts and make our joy complete?
To whom shall we go to know that we are loved?
Who lays down His life for you and me?

Thou art the Christ who faced Gethsemane.
Thou art the Christ who conquered Calvary.
Oh, Thou hast the words of eternal life.
Thou art the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Thou art the Christ.
Thou art the Counselor and Living Word!
Thou art the Son of God and resurrected Lord!

Sermon

“Foolish Hope”
(1 Peter 3:13-22)

Erin Conaway

Communion

All communion bread is gluten-free.

Silent Reflection

I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.
I pray that stone hearts will turn
to tenderheartedness,
and evil intentions will turn
to mercifulness,
I pray that all the ‘God talk’
will take bones,
and stand up and shed
its cloak of faithlessness,
and walk again in its powerful truth.

I pray that the whole world might
sit down together and share
its bread and its wine.
Some say there is no hope,
but then I've always applauded
the holy fools who never seem to give up
on the scandalousness of our faith:
that we are loved by God . . .
that we can truly love one another.
I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.

— Ann Weems, excerpts from “I No Longer Pray for Peace”

Hymn of Commitment, No. 443

“Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know”

*If you would like to make a public profession of your faith in Christ
or request membership in this congregation, our ministers
will greet you at the front of the sanctuary.*

Congregational Response

In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the
family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care,
our kinship, and our hopes; we hope to learn from you, give to you,
and receive from you, by God's grace. Amen.

Pastoral Blessing

Erin Conaway

Choral Benediction

“God So Loved the World”

Joel Raney

Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!
God so loved the word, that He gave His only Son,
That whosoever believes, would have eternal life.

Postlude

“Sing Praise to God”

(MIT FREUDEN ZART)
Paul Laubengayer